

HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY  
Intellectual Property Administration  
P.O. Box 272400  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80527-2400

Docket No.: 10017334-1  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Richard P. Tarquini et al.

Application No.: 10/003,820

Confirmation No.: 4709

Filed: October 31, 2001

Art Unit: 2136

For: NODE, METHOD AND COMPUTER  
READABLE MEDIUM OPTIMIZING  
PERFORMANCE OF SIGNATURE RULE  
MATCHING IN A NETWORK

Examiner: C. G. Colin

**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

In response to the Office Action dated April 7, 2006, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper, wherein claims 1-2 and 13 are amended and new claims 18-20 are presented.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.